

Excessive caseloads are another example of how Americans' right to counsel is defective. In 2009, the Constitution Project's National Right to Counsel Committee—comprised of current and former judges, prosecutors, public defenders, and law enforcement officials—released a report entitled "Justice Denied: America's Continuing Neglect of Our Constitutional Right to Counsel." The report found that all too often indigent defendants were provided counsel late or not at all. Even when a public defender represented a defendant, the report showed that lawyers' excessive caseloads made effective representation simply not possible. In conclusion, the report recommended "litigation to remedy such deficiencies should be instituted."

To help fix the indigent defense crisis, the Equal Justice Under Law Act of 2016 would implement this commonsense recommendation into action. The bill would create a federal cause of action that allows indigent criminal defendants to file a lawsuit against states and localities for systemic failures to provide effective assistance of counsel in felony cases. Litigation to be a useful tool to remedy systemic failures when indigent defense systems require defense attorneys to represent more clients than they can competently represent or otherwise fail to assure legal representation in compliance with the Sixth Amendment's right to counsel.

The bill would require states to consult with representatives from the public defender community prior to distributing Byrne JAG funds. Currently, Federal defenders are eligible for Byrne JAG funds. Yet, in practice, Federal defenders may not get the same proportion of these funds as prosecutors and law enforcement. So this provision would ensure that defenders are consulted before critical Federal funds are distributed.

This access to justice legislation has the support of numerous civil rights groups, such as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the Innocence Project.

Our public defender system is broken. It is time we fix it. I am proud to introduce the Gideon Act and the Equal Justice Under Law Act and I urge their speedy passage.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 520—RE-AFFIRMING THE STRONG RELATIONSHIP, BOTH IN DEFENSE AND TRADE, BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED KINGDOM

Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. JOHN-SON, and Mr. MCCONNELL) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 520

Whereas the United States and the United Kingdom have a special relationship ground-

ed in the rule of law, democratic principles, a common language, and a strong commitment to peace and security;

Whereas, on August 14, 1941, President Franklin Roosevelt and Prime Minister Winston Churchill issued the Atlantic Charter, which defined American and British war aims and laid the foundation for a post-war international system founded on free trade and freedom of the seas that persists to this day;

Whereas, on March 5, 1946, Winston Churchill delivered his "Iron Curtain Speech" in Fulton, Missouri, stating, "Neither the sure prevention of war, nor the continuous rise of world organization will be gained without what I have called the fraternal association of the English-speaking peoples . . . a special relationship between the British Commonwealth and Empire and the United States";

Whereas the United States and United Kingdom have stood side by side through two World Wars, the Korean War, the Cold War, the Gulf War, and the Global War on Terror with Americans and Britons fighting and dying together to defend our common interests and principles;

Whereas the United States and the United Kingdom have played central roles in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and are critical to maintaining its future strength;

Whereas senior military officers from the United Kingdom have served in advisory or command positions in United States headquarters, including combatant commands such as CENTCOM, and officers from the United States have served in similar roles in the British military;

Whereas the United States and United Kingdom made immense contributions in personnel and resources to the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), the NATO-led effort to train the Afghan National Security Forces, and to assist the Afghan people in rebuilding their country;

Whereas the Defense Trade Cooperation Treaty between the United States and United Kingdom, which was signed in 2007, ratified by the Senate on September 29, 2010, and entered into force in April 2012, introduces greater cooperation and access in order to meet the requirements of mutual defense frameworks;

Whereas both nations continue a close strategic partnership in developing and maintaining an effective nuclear deterrent, including developing the next-generation of nuclear ballistic missile submarines and the continued deployment and modernization of a submarine-launched ballistic missile;

Whereas the close and expanding economic ties between the United States and United Kingdom, including the world's largest bilateral foreign direct investment partnership, have greatly contributed to the continued prosperity of both nations; and

Whereas, on June 23, 2016, the United Kingdom held a European Union membership referendum, and the British people voted to leave the European Union: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) reaffirms that the special relationship between the United States and the United Kingdom will not be affected by the outcome of the June 23, 2016 referendum or by changes to the United Kingdom's relationship with the European Union;

(2) recognizes that continued defense and intelligence cooperation between the United States and United Kingdom is vital to the national security of both countries;

(3) supports the continued political and military leadership displayed by both nations in the North Atlantic Treaty Organiza-

tion (NATO) since it was founded 67 years ago; and

(4) urges the President to commence discussions with the Government of the United Kingdom, at their request, to ensure the continuance of our current bilateral trade relationship and as necessary, negotiations for the development of a free-trade agreement between our two countries.

SENATE RESOLUTION 521—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF SEPTEMBER 2016 AS NATIONAL OVARIAN CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Ms. AYOTTE (for herself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURR, Mr. COONS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. RUBIO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 521

Whereas ovarian cancer is the deadliest of all gynecologic cancers;

Whereas ovarian cancer is the fifth leading cause of cancer deaths among women in the United States;

Whereas in 2016, approximately 22,280 new cases of ovarian cancer will be diagnosed, and 14,240 women will die of ovarian cancer in the United States;

Whereas the mortality rate for ovarian cancer has not significantly decreased since the "War on Cancer" was declared more than 40 years ago;

Whereas a quarter of women will die within 1 year of diagnosis with ovarian cancer and over half will die within 5 years;

Whereas there is the mammogram to detect breast cancer and the Pap smear to detect cervical cancer, there is currently no reliable early detection test for ovarian cancer;

Whereas the lack of an early detection test means that approximately 80 percent of cases of ovarian cancer are detected at an advanced stage;

Whereas all women are at risk for ovarian cancer, and approximately 20 percent of women diagnosed with ovarian cancer have a hereditary disposition for ovarian cancer, which places them at even a higher risk;

Whereas scientists and physicians have uncovered changes in the BRCA genes that some women inherit from their parents, which may make them 30 times more likely to develop ovarian cancer;

Whereas the family history of a woman has been found to play an important role in accurately assessing her risk of developing ovarian cancer and medical experts believe the family history of a woman should be taken into consideration during her annual well woman visit;

Whereas many experts in health prevention now recommend genetic testing for young women with a family history of breast and ovarian cancer;

Whereas women who know they are at high risk of breast and ovarian cancer may undertake prophylactic measures to help reduce the risk of developing these diseases;

Whereas the Society of Gynecologic Oncology now recommends that all women diagnosed with ovarian cancer receive counseling and genetic testing;

Whereas many people are unaware that the symptoms of ovarian cancer often include bloating, pelvic or abdominal pain, difficulty eating or feeling full quickly, urinary symptoms, and several other symptoms that are easily confused with other diseases;

Whereas awareness of the symptoms of ovarian cancer by women and health care providers can lead to a quicker diagnosis;

Whereas in June 2007, the first national consensus statement on ovarian cancer symptoms was developed to provide consistency in describing symptoms to make it easier for women to learn and remember the symptoms;

Whereas each year during the month of September, the Ovarian Cancer Research Fund Alliance and the partner members hold a number of events to increase public awareness of ovarian cancer; and

Whereas September 2016 should be designated as “National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month” to increase public awareness of ovarian cancer: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 2016 as “National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month”; and

(2) supports the goals and ideals of National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month.

SENATE RESOLUTION 522—DESIGNATING JULY 30, 2016, AS “NATIONAL WHISTLEBLOWER APPRECIATION DAY”

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. KIRK, Mrs. McCASKILL, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. CARPER, Mrs. FISCHER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. ERNST, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. BOOZMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 522

Whereas, in 1777, before the passage of the Bill of Rights, 10 sailors and marines blew the whistle on fraud and misconduct harmful to the United States;

Whereas the Founding Fathers unanimously supported the whistleblowers in words and deeds, including by releasing government records and providing monetary assistance for reasonable legal expenses necessary to prevent retaliation against the whistleblowers;

Whereas, on July 30, 1778, in demonstration of their full support for whistleblowers, the members of the Continental Congress unanimously enacted the first whistleblower legislation in the United States that read: “*Resolved*, That it is the duty of all persons in the service of the United States, as well as all other the inhabitants thereof, to give the earliest information to Congress or other proper authority of any misconduct, frauds or misdemeanors committed by any officers or persons in the service of these states, which may come to their knowledge” (legislation of July 30, 1778, reprinted in *Journals of the Continental Congress, 1774–1789*, ed. Worthington C. Ford et al. (Washington, D.C., 1904–37), 11:732);

Whereas whistleblowers risk their careers, jobs, and reputations by reporting waste, fraud, and abuse to the proper authorities;

Whereas, when providing proper authorities with lawful disclosures, whistleblowers save taxpayers in the United States billions of dollars each year and serve the public interest by ensuring that the United States remains an ethical and safe place; and

Whereas it is the public policy of the United States to encourage, in accordance with Federal law (including the Constitution, rules, and regulations) and consistent with the protection of classified information (including sources and methods of detection of classified information), honest and good faith reporting of misconduct, fraud, misdemeanors, and other crimes to the appropriate authority at the earliest time possible: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates July 30, 2016, as “National Whistleblower Appreciation Day”; and

(2) ensures that the Federal Government implements the intent of the Founding Fathers, as reflected in the legislation enacted on July 30, 1778, by encouraging each executive agency to recognize National Whistleblower Appreciation Day by—

(A) informing employees, contractors working on behalf of United States taxpayers, and members of the public about the legal rights of citizens of the United States to “blow the whistle” by honest and good faith reporting of misconduct, fraud, misdemeanors, or other crimes to the appropriate authorities; and

(B) acknowledging the contributions of whistleblowers to combating waste, fraud, abuse, and violations of laws and regulations in the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 523—RELATING TO THE DEATH OF ELIE WIESEL, HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR, POWERFUL ADVOCATE FOR PEACE AND HUMAN RIGHTS, AND AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR

Mr. McCONNELL (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. AYOTTE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. COATS, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. ERNST, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. GARDNER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. HELLER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, Mr. KIRK, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEE, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. McCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RICH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SASSE, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. UDALL, Mr. VITTER, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 523

Whereas Elie Wiesel was born in Sighet, Transylvania (now Romania), in 1928 to Shlomo Wiesel and Sarah (Feig) Wiesel;

Whereas Elie Wiesel was deported to Auschwitz concentration camp by the Nazis when he was 15 years old;

Whereas Elie Wiesel suffered the loss of his mother, father, and younger sister, who died in Nazi concentration camps;

Whereas Elie Wiesel was freed when Buchenwald concentration camp was liberated in April 1945;

Whereas Elie Wiesel published his famous memoir, *Night*, in 1958, which detailed the horrors of Nazi death camps and gave a voice to their victims and survivors;

Whereas Elie Wiesel became an American citizen in 1963;

Whereas Elie Wiesel married his wife in 1969, with whom he raised one son;

Whereas Elie Wiesel was appointed Chairman of the President's Commission on the Holocaust in 1978;

Whereas Elie Wiesel served as Founding Chairman of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council;

Whereas Elie Wiesel was awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1986;

Whereas Elie and Marion Wiesel established the Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity to promote human rights and tolerance around the world;

Whereas Elie Wiesel received numerous awards throughout his life for his human rights activism and literary works, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the Congressional Gold Medal;

Whereas Elie Wiesel served as the Andrew W. Mellon Professor in the Humanities at Boston University until his death;

Whereas Elie Wiesel received more than 100 honorary degrees;

Whereas Elie Wiesel authored dozens of literary works;

Whereas Elie Wiesel was a passionate advocate for the State of Israel and the Jewish people and a tireless defender against anti-Semitism;

Whereas Elie Wiesel dedicated his life to teaching the world “never to be silent whenever wherever human beings endure suffering and humiliation” and to uphold the promise “never again”;

Whereas Elie Wiesel served as an inspiration and example of the triumph of the human spirit over unimaginable horrors;

Whereas Elie Wiesel was a lifelong advocate for the protection of human life, dignity, and freedom for all people, regardless of race, religion, or political views;

Whereas Elie Wiesel passed away on July 2, 2016, at 87 year of age;

Whereas the Nation is deeply indebted to Elie Wiesel, who has inspired and challenged the world with his message, legacy, and example:

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) extends its deepest condolences and sympathy to the family of Elie Wiesel;

(2) recognizes that Elie Wiesel, as an award-winning author, helped the world understand the true horrors of the Holocaust and gave a voice to the millions who suffered and perished in Nazi death camps;

(3) honors the legacy of Elie Wiesel for his lifelong commitment to advancing human dignity, freedom, and respect throughout the world;

(4) reiterates its continued support for human rights and protection of religious liberty throughout the world; and

(5) expresses admiration for Elie Wiesel's legacy as an example and advocate of the enduring power of the human spirit in the face of evil.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 7, 2016, at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.